up to screen the irrational formualtions in consultation with experts reviews and recommends from time to time weeding out formulations considered either harmful or irrational.

(d) After sanction for release of funds is accorded, the scheme will be put into operation.

RIDN facility in Andhra Pradesh

2767. SHRI GOPALA RAO RAO: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to bring some districts in Andhra Pradesh under the coverage of Rural Integrated Digital Network (RIDN); and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof and the names of the districts proposed to be covered under the RIDN alongwith the likely date by which they would be so covered?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SANTOSH MOHAN DEV): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) 'Khammam' District in A.P. has been selected for implementation of IDN Scheme within the 7th Five Year Plan subject to availability of equipment. The scheme envisages complete digitalisation of local exchange and transmission equipment in the District. It will provide inter-dialling facility amongst all the exchanges in the district.

Seatmen recruitment centre at Calcutta

2768. SHRI SAMAR MUKHERJEE: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the seamen recruitment centre at Calcutta is being wound up;

(b) whether the post of Director in the Seamen's Employment Office through whom Seamen are being recruited has not been filled up since November, 1986, if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) what are the reasons for abolishing the post of Principal Seamen's Welfare Officer, since 1985;

(d) whether there has been failure to implement the tripartite agreementt on job distribution at the rate of 70 per cent and 30 per cent between Bombay and Calcutta respectively since 27th March, 1973, if so, the reasons therefor; and

(e) whether it is a fact that the Government failed to accord due representation to the recognised Forward Seamen's Union of India in the various Statutory bodies like National Seamen's Welfare Board, Seafarers Welfare Fund Society, National Maritime Day Celebration Committee, National Maritime Board (India)?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI RAJESH PILOT): (a) No, Sir.

(b) A reference has already been made to the Union Public Service Commission for convening the Departmental Promotion Committee's meeting for selection for the post of Director, Seamen's Employment Office, Calcutta which is vacant since January, 1987.

(c) The post of Principal Seamen's Welfare Officer, not only at Calcutta but also at Bombay has been abolished as per the economy measures. The duties of the officers are being performed by the Shipping Masters at both the places.

(d) Efforts were made to get the Seamen's unions at Bombay and Calcutta to